

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Burma/China

SUBJECT Travel Restrictions in the Fukong and Kungshan Districts of Western Yunnan

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REFERENCES

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1. Soon after they came into power, the Chinese Communists made travel permits a requirement and by early 1951 it was necessary for a resident to have a permit to travel from village to village even in one community. For travel outside of the immediate community - that is, to villages half a day's walk or more away - it was theoretically necessary to get a permit which was validated by more than one official, presumably the village headman, the pao or community headman, and if another community was concerned, that of an official of that community. For a year, travel was very much restricted as it was difficult and sometimes impossible to get permits in time to meet the need. A type of quarantine was thus imposed which isolated the various communities from each other and kept them from comparing notes and developing resistance.
2. Travel within the hsien was theoretically permissible, and permits were obtainable. Any native or non-official person, however, found it virtually impossible to cross over from one hsien to another. Thus Fukong and Kungshan, which ordinarily have plenty of traffic back and forth, were completely cut off. People in Fukong could give no information concerning people in Kungshan and in the Weihsu District in the Mekong Valley to the east.
3. People with official status, and very infrequently their relatives or close friends, apparently do not need permits to travel from village to village or community to community, but still need permits for travel between districts. One or two such persons have been the source of any information beyond the first district next to the border. Evidently there is some secret travel by natives along mountain trails, but they dare not pass through villages en route, or be seen outside of the house to which they are traveling. Check-points are located on all "known" roads crossing borders and boundary lines, and also in the main villages. There used to be three check-points on roads crossing the border into Burma, but the Chinese became fearful and retreated first from the check-point closest to the border, then from the second, and finally there were no check-points up in the mountains but only one main check-point down close to their own villages. Thus for a good part of 1951-52 native trans-border travel was fairly free as the one check-point could be by-passed easily.

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4. Check-points in depth have been set up again and it is considered practically impossible to miss the check-points if one travels with loads or animals as the traders do, or if one travels the main roads. New restrictions have been imposed forbidding Chinese Communist subjects to visit Burma. These have been very strongly opposed by the big traders of the Fukong and Jijilo (Pichiang) Districts. When the issue came close to developing into an open rebellion, the Chinese Communists made several concessions with the result that limited numbers can travel for trade purposes by registering their merchandise going and coming.¹ Definite time limits are pre-determined which are for 20-30 days at the most, and those who do not return within the allotted time are jailed and their goods are confiscated.
5. Visiting traders from Burma are welcomed, not harred. They must pass through check-points and are given visas for villages they are permitted to visit. They are given a time limit but are told that such can be extended. Baggage examination coming and going is quite thorough. Outsiders are not permitted to travel in Weihsu District, Mekong Valley and such travel is unknown. As Weihsu residents are not allowed to leave their district, no information is available concerning them.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported that on 22 December 1952 a group of Kachins revolted against the local Chinese Communist administration. This is another indication that the Chinese Communists' local administrative controls are weak in the Yunnan-Burma border area.

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